

Application No. 10/081,580
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A protein chip holding tool for holding at least one protein chip, said at least one protein chip including a resilient layer which has a number of holes arranged in a matrix therein and which is closely adhered onto an upper
5 surface of a substrate, each of said holes being adapted to hold a predetermined amount of a protein test sample solution therein, said protein chip holding tool comprising:

a base plate including at least one substrate holding portion which holds the substrate and which is provided in an
10 upper surface of the base plate;

a lid rotatably supported at one end portion of the base plate so as to be rotatable to cover the upper surface of the base plate, said lid including: (i) at least one resilient layer holding portion which holds the resilient layer, and which is
15 provided in a surface of the lid that faces the base plate when the lid is turned to cover the base plate, at a position corresponding to the substrate holding portion in the surface of the base plate, and (ii) a plurality of openings which extend through the lid to expose the holes in the resilient layer held
20 in the resilient layer holding portion; and

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a slide shutter which is slidably supported on an upper surface of the lid, and which comprises a plurality of slits extending therethrough which are spaced apart at a pitch equal to a pitch of the openings in the lid along a sliding direction of the slide shutter;

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wherein the slide shutter is slidable to open and close the openings in the lid by aligning the slits in the slide shutter with the openings in the lid and by removing the slits from alignment with the openings in the lid.

7. (Previously Presented) The protein chip holding tool as set forth in claim 6, wherein the resilient layer comprises a silicone rubber plate, and a plane of the resilient layer which faces the substrate is ground and flattened.

8. (Previously Presented) The protein chip holding tool as set forth in claim 6, wherein the openings in the lid correspond respectively to the holes in the resilient layer.

9. (Previously Presented) The protein chip holding tool as set forth in claim 6, wherein the openings in the lid comprise slits that each expose a plurality of the holes in the resilient body.

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10. (Previously Presented) The protein chip holding tool as set forth in claim 6, further comprising an operating member which is operable to slide the slide shutter to open and close the openings in the lid, and wherein when the lid is turned to cover the base plate, the slide shutter is coupled to the operating member to slide the slide shutter to open and close the openings in the lid.